

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 11-13 and 15-18 are canceled. Claim 21 is new.

Claims 3-5 and 16-17 are canceled without prejudice. These five claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons that Claims 8-10, 14 and 19-20 are believed to be allowable, as argued below, but nevertheless are canceled because the distinguishing subject matter is more generically claimed in Claims 8-10 and 19-20.

The amendments to Claims 8, 14 and 19 are for the purpose better expressing the claimed subject matter and not for the purpose of distinguishing over the prior art applied by the Examiner.

Drawings

The objection to the drawing is met by amending FIG. 1 as required by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

The objection to the claims is met by amending the claims as required by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

The rejection of Claims 3-5, 8-10, 14, 16-17 and 19-20 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Bunn et al.* is respectfully traversed for the following reasons:

Bunn et al. neither describes nor suggests refreshing any of the removed fields by using a refresh field that is transmitted/received with a discrete information packet that includes the suppressed payload header that is to be restored by the predetermined restoration algorithm, as required by Claims 8, 14 and 19.

The subject matter that *Bunn et al.* described with reference to FIGS. 10 and 11 is the transmission of an unsuppressed payload header that is to be restored when an information packet including a suppressed payload header is transmitted. The field **1000** includes a learning bit **L 1002** that is set to indicate when the restoration means is to learn the unsuppressed payload header **900**. The unsuppressed payload header **900** is transmitted to the restoration means (CMTS **104**) separately from and prior to the transmission of the suppressed payload header that is to be restored by the predetermined restoration algorithm so that the restoration algorithm can learn the unsuppressed payload header that is to be referred to during such restoration.

Regarding dependent Claims 9, 10 and 20, *Bunn et al* neither describes nor suggests that the field **1000** contains any identification of any individual refresh field that is transmitted/received with the information packet that includes the suppressed payload header. Such an identification is not necessary in the *Bunn et al* system because the learning bit L **1002** indicates when the entire uncompressed payload header is going to be transmitted rather than indicating any particular individual identified field of the plurality of fields that are included in the unsuppressed payload header **900**.

Regarding dependent Claims 7 and 21, the "refresh field" feature of the present invention is particularly advantageous when the associated refresh field is transmitted as part of a discrete information packet of a group of information packets that are being transmitted to the second terminal as constant-length compressed information packets, such as typically are used for VOIP transmissions. Such constant-length information packets also are suitable for use with DOCSIS UGS bandwidth allocation. These features are discussed in the Background portion of the present application in the first paragraph on page 2.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING

Please amend FIG. 1 to be as shown in the enclosed replacement sheet showing said drawing figure.

FIG. 1 is amended to correct the spelling of “suppression” in step 16, as shown on the enclosed marked-up copy of original FIG. 1.

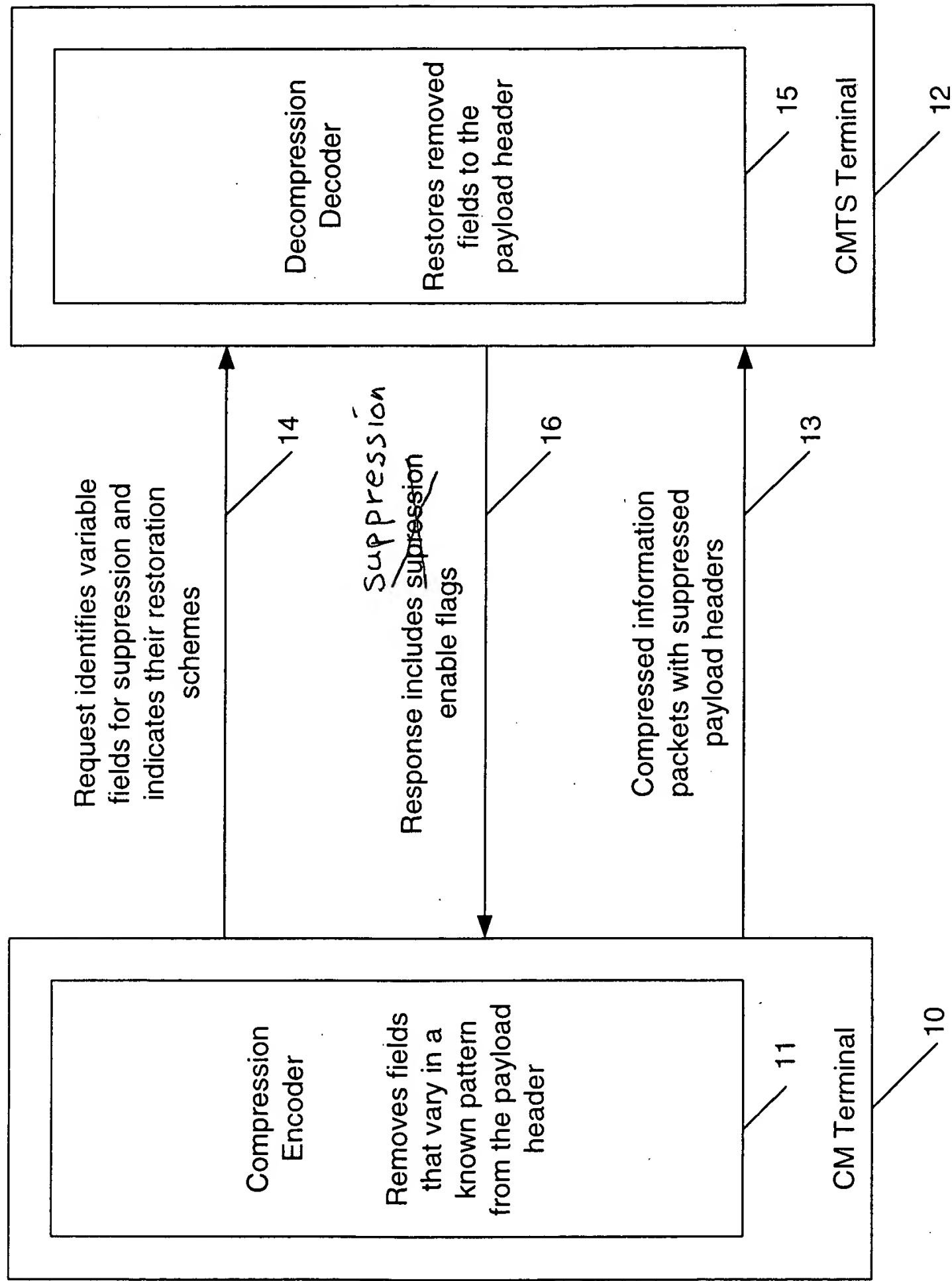


FIG. 1